
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 20, 2016

TO: Principals

FROM: Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent
Shaun Kraska, Assistant Superintendent

RE: Sky Lanterns Prohibited

In October 2015, it was brought to our attention that the selling of sky lanterns as a fundraising activity posed a risk to the district and the matter was discussed with principals. The decision at the time was only schools and affiliated groups that had already purchased lanterns would be allowed to complete the sale of their inventory, provided a label was affixed to each sky lantern noting: "Use is prohibited within the City of Fairbanks". Principals were asked to advise their groups not to purchase any more sky lanterns for resale.

The information received from the borough risk manager in October stated:

Unmanned free-floating devices containing an open flame or heat source including, but not limited to, sky lanterns shall be prohibited in the City of Fairbanks." The State of Alaska Fire Marshall's Office is proposing the same language throughout the State in 13.AAC 50.010 awaiting approval by the Administration and State Fire Marshal Lloyd Nakano stated that there has been no opposition to the passing of the language in the administrative code..

The National Association of Fire Marshals adopted a resolution on the fire hazards posed by sky lanterns and recommendation to impose state-level bans on their sale and use.

This memo is to remind all school groups that the sale of sky lanterns as a fundraising activity is prohibited in the district. Please be sure to share this information with school groups and school affiliated fundraising groups.

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cc: Karen Gaborik
Activities Coordinators
Assistant Principals
Robin Mullins